[Constitution as of July, 1947]

631 Art. 20. The Abkhazian Autonomous SSR consists of the districts of: Gagry, Gali, Gudauty, Gulripshi, Ochamchiri, Sukhumi; and the cities of Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli which do not form part of districts.

Art. 21. The Adjar Autonomous SSR consists of the districts of Batumi, Keda, Kobuleti, Khulo; and the city of Batumi which does not form part of a district.

Art. 22. The South Ossetian Autonomous Region consists of the districts of: Java, Znauri, Leningori, Staliniri; and the city of Staliniri which does not form part of a district.

642 Art. 23. The laws of the Georgian SSR are binding within the whole territory of the Georgian SSR.

In the event of divergence between the laws of the Abkhazian Autonomous SSR and the Adjar Autonomous SSR and the laws of the Georgian SSR, the law of the Georgian SSR prevails.

Art. 24. The Abkhazian Autonomous SSR and the Adjar Autonomous SSR have their Constitutions which take into account the particular conditions of these republics and are drawn up in full conformity with the Constitution of the Georgian SSR and of the USSR.

The South Ossetian Autonomous Region has a "Statute of the Autonomous Region" which is confirmed by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power in the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

644 Art. 25. The highest organ of state power in the Georgian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Georgian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 14 of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR, in so far as they do not, by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Georgian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR, and the Ministries of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 27. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Georgian SSR.

● [666] Art. 28. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is elected by the citizens of the Republic voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 15,000 of the population.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is elected for a term of four years.

[643] Art. 30. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

646 On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 39. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[643] Art. 40. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[644] Art. 41. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 42. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

[645] Art. 43. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR appoints the Government of the Georgian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

645 Art. 44. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Georgian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 46. The Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Georgian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and verifies their execution.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

644 595 Art. 139. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to develop the organisational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed the right to unite in public organisations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organisations, sport and defence organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organisations of the working people, both public and state.

[649] Art. 140. Citizens of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 141. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 142. The Georgian SSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for scientific activities, or for struggling for national liberation.

Art. 143. It is the duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR to abide by the Constitution of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

[685] [421] Art. 144. It is the duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR to safeguard and fortify public, socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public, socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 145. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the armed forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 146. To defend the country is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR. Treason to the motherland - violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.

Chapter XII. The Electoral System

● 666 Art. 147. Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies -

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

666 of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics, the Soviets of Toiling People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region and of the district, city, settlement and village Soviets of Toiling People's Deputies - are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 148. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Georgian SSR who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies, with the exception of insane persons, and people who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

Every citizen of the Georgian SSR, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities, is eligible for election to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR after reaching the age of 21.

[149] Every citizen of the Georgian SSR who has reached the age of 18 is eligible for election to a local Soviet, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities.

Art. 149. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

[562] Art. 150. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Art. 151. Citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 152. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Toiling People's Deputies, from village and city Soviets of Toiling People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR are elected by the citizens by a direct vote.

Art. 153. Voting at election of deputies is secret.

Art. 154. Candidates are nominated by election districts.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 155. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of his Soviet of Toiling People's Deputies, and he may be recalled at any time upon decision of a majority of the electors in a manner established by law.